

POLREP #1
Somers BN Tie Plant (Proposed NPL Site)
Release of Creosote and Related Wastes
Flathead Lake, near Somers, Flathead County, Montana
Site #63, Case #85251

I. SITUATION:

- A. Burlington Northern Railroad (BN), from approximately 1900 to the present, operated a facility on the north shore of Flathead Lake, near Somers, MT, which treated railroad ties with a creosote oil wood preservative. Between 1900 and 1974, BN discharged creosote contaminated wastes from the tie treating process to a disposal lagoon located on site. These wastes overflowed the lagoon and ponded (swamp pond) in a topographically low area bordering the shore of Flathead Lake.
- B. A potential threat to public health exists as a public beach runs along the shore of Flathead Lake adjacent to the swamp pond.
- C. There is a potential threat to the water supply of the town of Somers. The town draws its water from Flathead Lake through an intake located approximately one-half mile from the swamp pond.
- D. There is a potential threat to the migratory waterfowl. The US Fish and Wildlife Service operates a migratory and local Waterfowl Production Area along the north shore of Flathead Lake approximately one-fourth mile from the swamp pond.

II. ACTION TAKEN:

- A. Burlington Northern proposed certain removal actions to be taken at the site including 1) the construction of a barrier dike to prevent the discharge of wastes into Flathead Lake, 2) the construction of a fence to prevent public access to the swamp pond from the beach near the site, and 3) the installation of a device to discourage the migration of waterfowl into the area and prevent exposure.

III. ACTION PLANNED:

- A. EPA OSC and TATM will arrive on scene on April 21, to review documents and studies conducted at the site.
- B. Regional Response Team will be activated to consider possible removal action at the site. Meeting of the RRT will be held between 0900 and 1200 hours on April 26, at the Flathead National Forest



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Office at 1935 3rd Avenue East, in Kalispell, Montana. The following RRT members are requested to provide representatives at this meeting:

Department of Interior
Department of Health and Human Services
US Army Corps of Engineers
State of Montana

Any other RRT members are invited to attend if they so desire.

IV. CASE PENDING:

Floyd D. Nichols, OSC
1600 hours, April 19, 1985

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